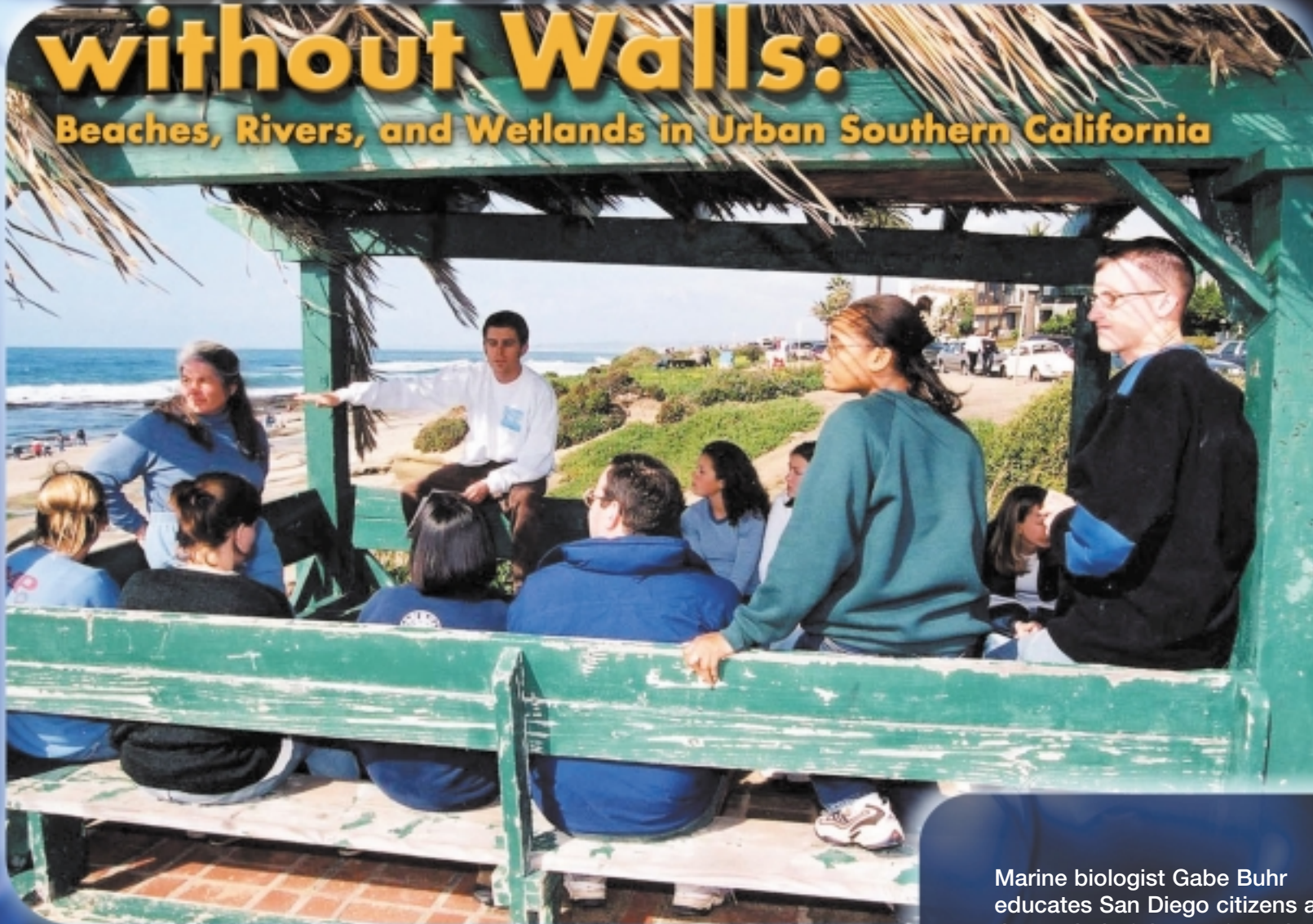


Classrooms without Walls:

Beaches, Rivers, and Wetlands in Urban Southern California



Marine biologist Gabe Buhr educates San Diego citizens about the myriad of threats from the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia*.



Los Angeles inner city elementary school children participate in a cleanup along the San Gabriel River during Coastal Cleanup Day.



Fourth graders from Farragut Elementary School in Culver City eagerly participate in the removal of ice plant (*Aptenia cordifolia*) in the Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles.



Top Left: Students attentively listen and take notes as they receive instruction from Jill Carlson along Lighthouse Creek, Santa Barbara
 Top Right: Students search organic material from Lighthouse Creek for the presence of macroinvertebrates.
 Bottom Left: A 6th grader shows us his results from a phosphate test he conducted on water from Lighthouse Creek.
 Bottom Right: Sixth graders use a local watershed map to find the location of their school and draw the watershed boundary that surrounds it.

School children from Washington Elementary participate in the Community Environmental Center's Creek Walk program that takes them from the field to the classroom, conducting basic science and mapping.



Mati Waiya, a Chumash ceremonial leader, shares his vision of listening to "the innocence of the children" at play, once his stream restoration and Chumash cultural village project at Nicholas Canyon, Malibu, are completed.

Volunteers participating in Ventura Stream Team's monthly data collection efforts gain a broader awareness of the meaning of "watershed" and learn about how the water's health is measured by conducting basic science.



Top: Marley Jaffey and Cody Cook participate in a Stream Team monitoring event. Cody describes his job as "looking for life." Marley says that watching the Stream Team work makes him "wonder what is going on."

Left: Marley Jaffey assists Steve Cook setup for a flow rate measurement on the Matilija Creek during a Stream Team data collection event.



Malibu High School student Caitlin Harris helps remove metal from a 1950's era car from Las Virgenes Creek at Malibu Creek State Park, believed to be left from a movie location when 20th Century Fox owned the park.



A painting class meets for a session on "constructing painting outdoors" at the Andre Clark Bird Refuge in Santa Barbara. A gentleman in a wheelchair enjoys the setting while the students practice their art.



Joy Yoon, a Ph.D. student at UCLA in restoration ecology, works on a restoration monitoring project, observing shorebird usage of restored and natural sites, at the Mugu Lagoon, Oxnard.



Dominick Dawson, a seventh grade Waldorf Elementary School student, employs a pruning saw to cut down large castorbean plants at San Jose Creek, Goleta.

Fourth graders from Bellflower School district at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands participate in a program for "at risk" students entitled "Math, Engineering, and Science Application" (MESA).



Top: The group observes birds and plant life in the wetland from a walk bridge.

Left: The children undertake non-native plant removal along a walk trail in Inner Bolsa Bay.

Children from throughout San Diego County were on a "*mission possible*" to save wetland habitat during Project Pacific's "Wetland Avengers" event. Local biologists (the "Sergeants") lead educational and interactive tours of sensitive and threatened habitat and then worked with a "Squad Leader" to remove non-native invasive species, trash and unnecessary paths.



Top: Wetland Avengers Fernando Lopez and Hugo Solano have fun making a "mission possible".

Left: Wetland Wizard Kim Cupini tests Avengers' new knowledge about salt marsh animals.



Project Pacific's 'Evil Algae Hunt' drew over 200 tidepoolers for San Diego's "*Caulerpa taxifolia* Awareness Day" where biologists educated participants about the threat of the "evil algae" and discussed the general threat of invasive species and the destructive results when they are introduced to a non-native area.

Mary Nichols, Secretary of the California Resources Agency, and students who won an environmental essay contest, pose with the "**Preserving the Wetlands**" float, 2001 Rose Parade winner of the Queen's Trophy. The float was dedicated to the Wetlands Recovery Project by Southern California Edison and seen by millions of television viewers worldwide.



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